

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, line 19 to page 14, line 5, with the following redlined paragraph:

In another embodiment, the HVS-based pre-processing at the blocks 500-506 of Figure 5 can be hierarchically arranged, when appropriate, using the HVS-based pre-processing techniques disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. _____ (~~Attorney Docket No. 930144.420~~) 10/815,280, entitled "HUMAN VISUAL SYSTEM (HVS)-BASED PRE-FILTERING OF VIDEO DATA," filed _____, ~~2003~~ March 30, 2004, which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. _____ (~~Attorney Docket No. 930144.420P1~~) 60/525,264, entitled "HUMAN VISUAL SYSTEM (HVS)-BASED PRE-FILTERING OF VIDEO DATA," filed November 26, 2003, both of which designate inventor Lalit Sarna, are assigned to the same assignee as the present application, and are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. For purposes of brevity, such HVS-based pre-processing is summarized herein, and the reader may refer to this co-pending application for further details if desired. In such an embodiment, the HVS-based pre-processing at blocks 500-506 derive from the fact that a lack of high frequency texture information does not have a severe impact on perceptive quality at low bit rates and low spatial resolution.